

## NEW BOOKS.

Continued from Seventh Page.

"If you don't hurry a little, Uncle Cy, then I won't never get into the shed 'fore the storm," said Aunt Polly. In the musical drawl which seemed to suit her ample chest as it ended with a faint chuckle that is indescribable. "Pears like we was fitten" to a second Deluge, "judgin' by the last fort-nite's rains, an' 'thar ain't no possible way as I can study out 'er climbin' the mountain, even 'twin' that the Ark an' ole Massa Noah was waitin' at the top to take you an' me 'mong the passengers."

Aunt Polly's thoughts showed a certain sophistication, and we wondered that her dialect, too, had not outgrown its innocent first state. As we read on we found that this was not a story of dialect exclusively. The storm burst presently. Amid the flare and thunder of it a pair of runaway horses dashed along the road. In the wagon attached a young woman stood bareheaded. Her coat was "raised" in such a shrike of agony and terror that it rose even above the howling of the wind. She was flung out. Uncle Cy carried her into the cabin. Aunt Polly nursed her efficiently and tenderly. She became a mother. Three weeks later Aunt Polly asked her if she did not love her child. Her answer was: "No, I hate it." In her eyes dwelt "such misery, rage and despair that Aunt Polly fairly shuddered."

There is the foundation for a story and the obvious substructure of a plot. We do not feel that it would be quite proper for us to treat at any considerable length of subsequent events. Mrs. Vanstatter, who appears in the story later, was a woman of great beauty and social power. At the "coming out" of her daughter Cecile in Baltimore Cecile explained—with entire reasonableness—we must think: "Mama, you are superb!" We believe that a Vanstatter of Antwerp and Amsterdam had allied himself with the daughter of a magnificent Spanish Creole of New Orleans. Mrs. Vanstatter went out in evening dress, forsaking a dinner party to confront a villain of other days—a villain whom she had by no means forgotten. When he appeared she said to him: "Gaspard Lafont, what have you got to say to me—the woman whom you betrayed and deserted in her hour of utmost need?" He cried: "Eve, my darling!" and tried to embrace her. "She raised her white hand and struck him in the face." He said: "How dare you condemn me unheard? I, who have spent years of sorrow in which I searched vainly for you, exhausting every clue; I, whose soul was so passionately bound in yours that no other love could enter there; I, who would have mourned you as dead rather than deem you unfaithful. Could you not give me the benefit of the doubt?"

We have called Lafont a villain, but that was merely a reiteration of her own opinion entertained at the time. She had meant to betray him at the clock struck 12. Did she betray him? Was her loving influence potent with the great War Secretary, Edwin M. Stanton? And the child she had hated; what was its fate? What was the javelin forged in that hour? For answers to these questions, and to others as interesting that we have omitted, we direct the reader confidently to the book. We know that he will be eager to learn all the details that it contains and reveals.

"More Adventures of the Happy Heart Family."

A year ago the "Happy Heart Family," by Virginia Gerson (Fox, Duffield & Co.), came to add brightness, sweetness and light to the holiday season. Now we have with us "More Adventures of the Happy Heart Family," by the same author and the same publishers. This time one of the youngsters waves a banner bearing the motto "Love Everybody and Feel Jolly." That tiny legend indicates the spirit of Miss Gerson's works. These Happy Heart books are for children, but the older can extract genuine delight from them. There is the purest juvenility in them—an adolescence that will smooth wrinkled brows and bachelor men and bachelor maids as they peruse them and note the fine half tones depicting harlequin antics of the kiddies can in fancy hear the tittering, giggling laughter of the darlings of the nursery.

Cambridge English Classics.

The laudable enterprise of the Syndics of the University Press at Cambridge, England, in publishing the works of the English classical writers in a form that scholars may use progresses apace. The first volumes of the works of three more authors come to us from the Macmillans, and these have the characteristics of those which have appeared already. In each case the last edition on which the author could have had influence is taken, and is reprinted almost verbatim, the only changes being obvious typographical errors and matters of that sort. The variants from other editions, with bibliographical notes, appear in the appendix. Thus an authoritative text is provided which puts the scholar practically in the position of owning the *editio princeps*. The volumes are handsomely gotten up, in large readable type, and the only drawback is that any one who wishes to own the whole set of authors must have plenty of room to house the books.

Dr. Adolphus William Ward edits the "Poems of George Crabbe," which will be completed in three volumes, of which the first is ready. The arrangement is chronological in the order in which the poems appeared. It is rather strange that so recent an author should stand in need of a reprint of this sort, but Crabbe's carelessness and the revival of interest in his works justify the new edition.

For the "Poems on Several Occasions" of Matthew Prior, Mr. A. R. Waller is responsible. He has used the last collected edition, the folio of 1718, with the variants of previous editions, and the poems that Prior republished, although they were his. Another volume will contain other poems by Prior and his prose writings, so that the edition will be the most complete we have.

The third book is John Bunyan's "Life and Death of Mr. Badman" and "The Holy War," edited by John Brown, D. D. The former is reprinted from the first edition of 1680 and the latter from the first edition of 1682.

Lieut. Armistice in the Antarctic.

Following on the narrative of Capt. Robert F. Scott, the commander of the Discovery expedition to the Antarctic regions, comes that of Lieut. Albert B. Armitage, the second in command. "Two Years in the Antarctic" (Edward Arnold; Longmans, Green & Co.), a thoroughly readable story of adventure. The more important and interesting parts of the narrative scientifically are, doubtless, the accounts of the sledging expeditions, arduous and exciting, that Lieut. Armistice led in person, though of course more modest than the two main trips, south and west, conducted by Capt. Scott in person. There is so much that is personal, however, in this new volume that was omitted in the other work that the two books complement each other. What pertains to the objects of the ex-

Continued on Ninth Page.

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